

GLOBAL HUNGER RESPONSE

Situation report #13 | September 2023

The world is in a massive hunger crisis. **Tens of millions of children and their families are currently confronted with the real-life impacts of acute hunger, including starvation and other long-term health issues.** Driving this is a polycrisis made up of interconnected components including: conflict; an uneven global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; climate change; high inflation; as well as the rising cost of food, fuel, and fertiliser – prices of which have reached a 10-year high due to geopolitics.^a

By the end of last year, nearly **35 million people** across 39 countries or territories were enduring extremely severe, acute food insecurity (IPC 4+),^b at risk of starvation, and after year-on-year increases, over a quarter of a billion people – 258 million – were estimated to be suffering acute food insecurity (IPC 3+).^c World Vision is responding to this global emergency with a **US\$2 billion appeal** – the largest in organisational history.

Food assistance and other life-saving support is needed immediately to prevent the deaths of thousands of people. Despite efforts from the United Nations (UN) and agencies like World Vision, needs continue to outpace international funding. World Vision's Global Hunger Response is targeting **30 million people in 28 countries of highest concern** experiencing acute hunger and the threat of famine.* Elsewhere World Vision continues to monitor the situation and is working to adapt programming and responses where cost-of-living price shocks are hurting the vulnerable.

* East Africa Emergency Hunger Response: Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda; West Africa Emergency Hunger Response: Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, CAR, Mauritania, Sierra Leone; other national responses include: Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, DRC, Angola, Lesotho, Eswatini, Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Myanmar, Sri Lanka.

Situation overview

The hunger situation globally continues to be alarming with millions of children and their families facing acute food insecurity. While the international mobilisation of funds and efforts have helped avoid catastrophic situations in some of the world's most affected countries some countries have seen a record increase in the number of food insecure people over the first half of 2023.¹ More than 128,000 people in four countries² face an extreme lack of food and are unable to meet other basic needs, even with emergency coping strategies.³

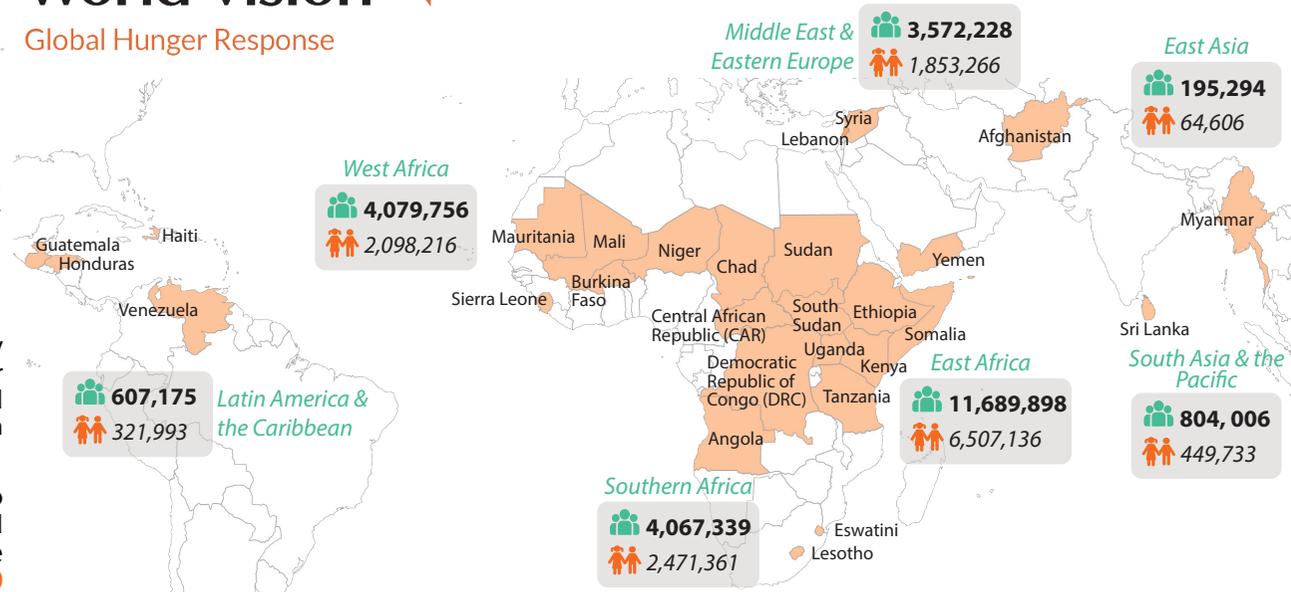
Overall, an analysis of acute food insecurity shows a 10% increase in the number of food insecure people (IPC 3+) in 48 countries in 2023 so far.⁴ This number is likely to increase further as new analyses become available, with the impact most strongly felt by children. Food insecurity continues to be driven by interlinked and mutually reinforcing factors, frequently due to the interaction between shocks (such as conflict, economic stressors, climate shocks, displacement, and natural disasters) and underlying poverty, structural weaknesses, systemic injustices, and other vulnerability factors. This reinforces the need to work across the humanitarian-peace-development nexus to address issues of hunger and malnutrition in a sustainable manner.

Global inflation, in particular, has had a toll on countries battling with hunger and malnutrition. Although international food prices had been trending downward, since their peak in March 2022 with the start of the war in Ukraine, they remain at historically high levels.⁵ The global Food Price Index was down 2.1% in August; however, the rice price index spiked 9.8%, hitting a 15-year nominal high.⁶

The El Niño conditions that started developing in the tropical Pacific since July 2023, are also expected to continue through the northern hemisphere's winter, increasing the risk of disruptive climate patterns and extreme weather events.⁷ Parts of East Africa and the West African Sahel region⁸ reported being abnormally dry and hot in August.⁹ While the extent of El Niño's impacts on agriculture and food security will depend on a complex interplay of meteorological, seasonal, and vulnerability factors, the lingering effects of successive economic shocks combined with the likely changes in supply and demand for foodstuffs as a result of these expected extreme weather events could significantly increase the vulnerability of countries around the world.¹⁰

World Vision

Global Hunger Response



People reached

25,015,696



Men 4,961,098

Women 6,288,287



Children 13,766,311

Boys 6,552,594 Girls 7,213,717

*Based on figures as of 21 September 2023. People reached includes people supported in GHR's 28 countries of highest alert from 01 March 2021 through the current reporting period (31 August 2023).

^a WFP (n.d.) 'A global food crisis', [Accessed as of 27/06/2023].

^b Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a system allowing governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and other relevant actors to work together to determine the severity and magnitude of acute and chronic food insecurity, and acute malnutrition situations in a country, according to internationally-recognised scientific standards.

^c International Food Security Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) (2023) *Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2023*, p7.

¹ FSIN and GNAFC (14 Sept 2023) *GRFC 2023 mid-year update*.

² Burkina Faso, Mali, Somalia, and South Sudan

³ FSIN and GNAFC (14 Sept 2023).

⁴ *Ibid.* Based on countries reporting on food insecurity so far. Due to a lack of updated data, the numbers do not include estimates for 10 countries with high levels of acute food insecurity in 2022 (including three of the largest food crises of 2022 – Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine).

⁵ FAO (08 Sept 2023) *Food price index*.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (25 Sept 2023) *ENSO: Recent evolution, current status, and predictions*.

⁸ Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) (2023a) *Global weather hazards summary: September 1-7, 2023*.

⁹ FEWS NET (2023b), *Global weather hazards summary: September 8-14, 2023*

¹⁰ FSIN and GNAFC (14 Sept 2023).

Key concerns

- The last few weeks have witnessed large-scale natural disasters in **Morocco** and **Libya**, affecting thousands of people. While World Vision is not present in these countries, our prayers are with those affected and our fellow humanitarian responders.
- Clashes between armed groups and national security forces in **Burkina Faso** and attacks on civilians continue to cause massive displacement and humanitarian need. Recent Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis¹¹ in the country show that a record 42,700 people are living in famine-like conditions (CH 5), almost double earlier estimations of 22,500 (May 2023) and far above last year's 1,800 estimate (November 2022).²² More than 3.35 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity (CH 3+), including nearly 605,000 people living in 'emergency' (CH 4). The highest levels of food insecurity in the country continue to plague the Boucle du Mouhoun region, where conflicts and insecurity severely impede the proper functioning of markets and prevent populations from adequately accessing food products.
- Food insecurity outlooks for **South Sudan** predict that by February 2024, more areas will be at heightened risk of famine due to the high influxes of refugees from Sudan coupled with the prolonged impact of conflict and floods, which have led to the near collapse of local livelihoods.¹³ Around 43,000 people are expected to already be experiencing IPC 5 conditions, but the malnutrition situation has been particularly dramatic amongst asylum seekers from Sudan, with severe acute malnutrition levels reported to be 7.5% at the Renk transit centre.¹⁴
- Displaced populations from Sudan have also fled to other neighbouring countries, taking refuge in areas already experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity in the **Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt** and **Ethiopia**, stoking concerns that the most vulnerable people will be placed at even more risk as competition over already scarce resources may further fuel tensions between displaced populations and host communities.¹⁵
- **Mali** is extremely vulnerable to climate change and is already facing acute climate-related challenges from higher temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events. Nearly 1 million Malian children under the age of 5 are expected to be suffering from acute malnutrition by December 2023, including 200,000 children who face certain death if life-saving treatment is not received.¹⁶ The ongoing conflict and limited humanitarian access have pushed millions of Malians into acute food insecurity (IPC 3+), including more than 2,500 people in the crisis-affected Menaka region, who are facing famine-like conditions (IPC 5) for the first time ever.¹⁷
- **Lebanon's** ongoing economic and financial crisis, which began in October 2019, has greatly worsened the country's food security situation for Lebanese citizens as well as Syrian and Palestinian refugees, and migrant workers.¹⁸ The economic crisis continues to put significant pressure on food prices, with food inflation rates reaching a record high of 280% in 2023.¹⁹ It is estimated that 21% of the Lebanese population and 36% of the Syrian refugee population are living in IPC 3+ conditions that require urgent humanitarian action to reduce food gaps, diversify food intake, protect and restore livelihoods, and prevent acute malnutrition. More alarming is the situation of 59,000 Lebanese residents and 48,000 Syrian refugees who are facing 'emergency' (IPC 4) conditions.²⁰



In Baidoa, Somalia, staff at the World Vision-managed Darussalam mother-and-child health centre provide Fatuma, 25, with a supply of ready-to-eat therapeutic food packets for her to feed her malnourished 1-year-old son after his examination. © World Vision / Jon Warren

¹¹ Similar to the IPC, [the Cadre Harmonisé \(CH\)](#) is a collaborative and standardised framework used primarily in West Africa and the Sahel to assess food and nutrition security. It involves a consensus-based analysis by multiple stakeholders, aims to provide early warnings of food crises, and informs coordinated response efforts.

¹² [FAO \(8 Jun 2023\) Global information and early warning system: Burkina Faso.](#)

¹³ [FEWS NET \(Aug 2023\) Food assistance outlook brief.](#)

¹⁴ [FSIN and GNAFC \(14 Sept 2023\).](#)

¹⁵ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁶ [UNICEF \(1 Sept 2023\) Nearly one million children in Mali at risk of acute malnutrition by the end of 2023 – UNICEF-WFP.](#)

¹⁷ [FSIN and GNAFC \(14 Sept 2023\).](#)

¹⁸ [IPC \(7 Aug 2023\) Lebanon: Acute food insecurity situation May – October 2023.](#)

¹⁹ [FSIN and GNAFC \(14 Sept 2023\).](#)

²⁰ [IPC \(7 Aug 2023\).](#)

RESPONSE GOAL: To reduce acute food insecurity and improve the resilience of 30 million of the most vulnerable people in countries experiencing growing hunger and the threat of famine

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Improve access to food for affected households

- 7,555,859** People reached with cash and voucher assistance
- US\$430,262,465** Cash and voucher assistance distributed
- 990,604** Children receiving hot meals and/or dry rations through school feeding
- 10,717,494** People reached with (in-kind) food assistance

Increase access to curative and preventive quality emergency health and nutrition services

- 1,479,999** People reached through primary health-care support
- 627,635** Children reached through severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) management
- 92,432** Children recovered from SAM
- 259,367** Primary caregivers benefited from infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion and action oriented sessions and counselling

Improve access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services to mitigate waterborne diseases

- 2,136,502** People with access to clean, potable water
- 1,056,511** People who have participated in emergency hygiene promotion activities with appropriate supplies *including 2,922 Faith leaders engaged on hygiene promotion activities*

Ensure protection for children, women, and vulnerable groups including psychosocial support and provision of dignity kits for reproductive age girls and women

- 307,938** People receiving prevention messages on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and/or positive coping strategies *including 8,828 Faith leaders engaged in disseminating prevention messages on PSEA and/or positive coping mechanisms*
- 165,630** People receiving psychosocial support

Enhance household resilience to food insecurity and livelihoods-related shocks

- 8,982** Households provided with conditional cash or vouchers to procure agricultural physical assets
- 66,435** Households provided with (in-kind) livelihood physical agricultural assets
- 55,324** Households growing crops that are resilient to climate hazards/stresses
- 56%** Proportion of households with alternative and diversified sources of income
- 27,105** People trained in climate change resilient farming practices

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

- [Global Hunger Response Phase II strategic plan](#)
- [Mapping the many-headed monster threatening the world's children](#)
- [The life-saving need for nutrition investment](#)
- [Pray without ceasing: Three reasons to pray for an end to the global hunger crisis](#)
- [Clean water restores hope for children's education \(Afghanistan\)](#)
- [A mother: World Vision's health service is a blessing for us! \(Afghanistan\)](#)
- [Livelihood recovery: Cash assistance programme empowers most vulnerable \(Afghanistan\)](#)
- [Fight for life: the battle against malnutrition in southern Angola](#)
- [Savings transform and change the lives of the most vulnerable households in Kenge AP \(DRC\)](#)
- [Savings for transformation groups transforming communities in Lesotho](#)
- [Safeguarding communities through provision of safe drinking water \(Lesotho\)](#)
- ['They took away all our food rations' tells Aramata \(Mali\)](#)
- [Nouhoum, displaced student is happy to have received cash \(Mali\)](#)
- [From struggle to strength \(Myanmar\)](#)
- [Daw Mu: A single mother's amazing journey \(Myanmar\)](#)
- [Without water and without food, every day is a challenge \(Guatemala\)](#)
- [Invisible and forgotten: Displaced children hungrier and at more risk than ever](#)
- [One year on: Global Hunger Response](#)
- [Global Hunger Response: Capacity statement](#)



Preschool children in Sri Lanka's Uva province receive nutritious school meals daily through the RISE Lanka Project, funded by Australian Humanitarian Partnership. This project has provided 1,988 preschool students with lunches to support the most vulnerable families and increase regular school attendance.
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World Vision is focussed on helping the most vulnerable children to overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places. Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness. Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.

wvi.org/emergencies/hunger-crisis

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